

The presence of the so-called "muddy volcanos" located in the Buzau county, near the village of Berca is interesting. Not as spectacular as real volcanos, but still an interesting phenomena. These so-called volcanoes are active all the time, which means gas is pushing mud to the surface in a continuous way, but at low speeds.



A bubble of gas

Flora

The mud volcanoes create a strange lunar landscape, due to the absence of vegetation around the cones. Vegetation is scarce because the soil is very salty, an environmental condition in which few plants can survive.



Vegetation at the base of the mud volcanoes

Tourism

The phenomenon can be observed on two separate locations near the Berca commune, dubbed *the Little Mud Volcanoes* and *The Big Mud Volcanoes*. The volcanoes themselves are surrounded by 'badlands' of water-cut ravines.



General view



Landscape formed by the mud flows



SCOALA GIMNAZIALA
DUMBRAVA-RACHITA
ROMANIA

Muddy volcanoes in Buzau, a natural wonder of Romania



„ LEARNING BY DOING”
ERASMUS PROJECT KA201

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The **Berca Mud Volcanoes** is a geological and botanical reservation located close to Berca in Buzău County in Romania. Its most spectacular feature is the *mud volcanoes*, small volcano-shaped structures typically a few metres high caused by the eruption of mud and natural gases

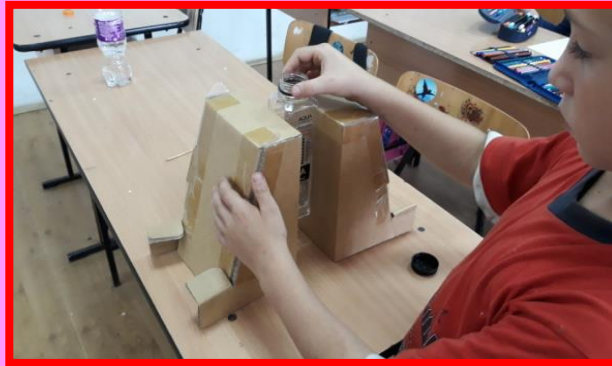
The geological phenomenon

As the gases erupt from 3000 metres deep towards the surface, through the underground layers of clay and water, they push up underground salty water and mud, so that they overflow through the mouths of the volcanoes, while the gas emerges as bubbles. The mud dries off at the surface, creating a relatively solid conical structure resembling a real volcano. The mud expelled by them is cold, as it comes from inside the Earth's continental crust layers, and not from the mantle.



The reservation is unique in Romania. Elsewhere in Europe, similar phenomena can be observed in Italy (northern Apennines and Sicily), Ukraine (in the Kerch Peninsula), Russia (in the Taman Peninsula) as well as Azerbaijan.

We made an experiment with the students from 3-rd classe about the eruption of a volcano.



Who wouldn't like to be close to a volcano, to smell it, to touch it, to study it without putting his life in danger? Well, good news! Everybody can do this at the Mud Volcanoes from Buzau County. Even if, scientifically speaking, they are not real volcanoes, they are quite spectacular and naughty, splashing cold mud lava while enriching the area with a prickly scent of sulfur.

